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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Customer No.: 23641

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Certificate Under 37 CFR 1.8(a)

Application No.: 10/614607

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Confirmation
No.: 7773

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Filing Date: July 7, 2003

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Attorney
Docket No.: 614359/82664

on February 15, 2005

First Named
Inventor: Steven M. Moilanen


Zellma Grunden

Group Art
Unit: 3652

Examiner
Name: Dean J. Kramer

Title: MODULAR STAMPED
PARTS TRANSFER GRIPPER

AFFIDAVIT PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. § 1.132

Mail Stop AF
Commissioner of Patents
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

I declare as follows:

1. I, Bruce D. McIntosh, am currently the Engineering Manager - Clamp Division at PhD, Inc. I have been employed at PhD, Inc. since February of 1982.

2. I am an inventor of the above-referenced patent application and I am, therefore, knowledgeable about the disclosure and claims therein.

3. I have experience with clamps, grippers, and related pneumatic technologies. I have several patents related to such technologies to my name, including U.S. Patent No. 6,588,816, issued on July 8, 2003, U.S. Patent No. 6,499,331, issued on December 31, 2002, U.S. Patent No. 6,227,586 issued on May 8, 2001, and U.S. Patent No. 6,056,281, issued on May 2, 2000.

4. I understand that in the Office Action dated September 13, 2004, in the above-referenced application, the Examiner has rejected some of the claims for obviousness based upon U.S. Patent No. 4,886,635 to Forster et al. (hereinafter "the '635 patent"). It is my understanding that the basis for this rejection is that the Examiner believes the shape of guide grooves 5a, 6a keep catches 5,6 closed in case of a sudden reduction of pressure in the control lines 22a.

5. Upon my review of the '635 Patent, it appears that the disclosed shape of guide grooves 5a, 6a (see FIG 1 and FIG 2) do not contribute to catches 5, 6 remaining closed in case of a sudden reduction of pressure in the control lines 22a. Specifically, it appears that when a part is being gripped by catches 5, 6, guide pins 14, 15 are in an area of guide grooves 5a, 6a, respectively, that are straight and generally parallel to the path traveled by sleeve bushing 13 along guide bar 4. Contrary to the Examiner's statement, according to FIG 2 and the corresponding sections of the specification, springs 23, not grooves 5a, 6a, hold catches 5, 6 closed. Springs 23, however, are located in cylinders 19, not on catches 5, 6. A sudden reduction of pressure in control lines 22a would cause sleeve bushing 13 to drop longitudinally along guide bar 4 with guide pins 14, 15 moving along guide grooves 5a, 6a, respectively, thereby causing catches 5, 6 to open, as shown in FIG 1. Sleeve bushing 13 must be retracted or catches 5, 6 will open. No locking angle in guide grooves 5a, 6a appears to be disclosed in the specification.

6. The undersigned declares further that all statements made herein of his own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further, that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section

1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.

Declared at FT WAYNE, Indiana, this 9 day of
FEB, 2005.

Bruce McIntosh

Bruce D. McIntosh

State of Indiana)

) ss:

County of Allen)

On this 14th day of February, 2005, before me, a Notary Public in and for the County and State aforesaid, appeared Bruce D. McIntosh, to me personally known to be the same person whose name is subscribed to the foregoing instrument, and acknowledged that he executed said instrument as his free and voluntary act and for the uses and purposes therein expressed.

Marissa Whitesell

Notary Public

Marissa Whitesell

MARISSA WHITESELL
NOTARY PUBLIC
WELLS COUNTY, INDIANA
MY COMMISSION EXPIRES NOVEMBER 20, 2005
COMMISSION NO.: 489938

Printed Name

My Commission Expires: 11/20/08

County of Residence: Wells